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corded in Pictish and Irish authorities, Mr. Petrie would not then offer an opinion, though he had no hesitation in stating that, from the forms of the letters, he had no doubt that the inscription was of an age some centuries earlier than that ascribed to it by Mr. Ramsay.

An extract was read from a letter addressed to Sir William Hamilton by Lieutenant Steevenson, on a mode of ascertaining the general state of the weather for any spring and summer from the general state of the preceding winter.

The writer is of opinion that the prevalence of westerly winds and rain, during our wet summers, arises from the presence in the Atlantic Ocean of a greater quantity than usual of ice, brought southwards by currents from the Arctic regions.

Robert Ball, Esq., Treasurer, read an abstract of the Accounts of the Academy, for the Year ending 31st of March, 1847, which was ordered to be printed in the Proceedings. (See *Appendix*, No. X.)

DONATIONS.

Comptes rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences. From 8 Feb. to 8 March, 1847. Presented by the Academy.

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, for 1846. Part IV.

Proceedings of the Royal Society (1846). No. LXVI.

List of Members of the Royal Society. Nov. 30, 1846. Presented by the Society.

Astronomical Observations made at the U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, during the Year 1845. By M. F. Maury, Lieut. U. S. Navy. Presented by the Author.